**Ethics Reflection**

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. Does History show we have made moral progress?

In hindsight to previous events and behavior of groups and individuals that have occurred and lived in earlier, different times we can say that there has been a great amount of progress. This progress can be seen in people’s emotions, reasoning and general perception of the world and the interaction between people. This may only be true in some areas and only to some extent as regions of the world which have not seen development especially scientific, technical and political that morals have more or less remained the same.

The progress that has occurred though happened relatively rapidly when considering the overall development of humans and society. In the past couple of centuries many laws concerning human rights and equality have developed which have shaped our moral thinking and behavior. Not long ago blacks were considered useless and women were thought to belong in the kitchen. Morally these things are now considered “wrong”. I think moral progression occurs due to events that shape our understanding of what we actually are and what is expected of us in general across all religions and cultures. Although I do think moral progress occurs at different paces across the world and in different sized leaps and steps.

1. Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?

Ethical morals affect peoples decisions and what actions they take to prevent or cause something. Ethics should be a matter of the head as sense perception and reasoning should come before emotions. For example if you had to kill 3 people to save 1 then the logic, reasonable thing to do according to our head is to let the person die and save the 3 people. This scenario becomes much more complex when emotions and feelings creep in. If the single person for example is someone close to you whom you have feelings for and the 3 people you have to kill are anonymous to you then killing the three people is a “no brainer”. As we are selfish we wont think of the 3 peoples families and friends. This is an extreme scenario but shows that your ethics and decisions are affected by our emotions and reason plays little to no role in these decisions. When the consequences are far less extreme then reason tells us to do the logical thing, many times though our emotions affect our decisions and since we cannot block out our emotions we will have to weigh the different decisions and ultimately make a decision with which we are satisfied.